

Remarks

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 are amended. Applicants assert that claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaufman (US Pat 6,035,018). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 include recitations directed to obtaining a message from a resource of the telecommunications network while a device of the telecommunications network is connected to the call to which the message is to be directed.

As one example, claim 1 recites, in part, a system wherein a call from an individual is connected to the at least one central terminal, with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call.

As another example, claim 8 recites, in part, an application server system that includes means for providing recorded announcements to at least one central office on the network upon a call from an individual being connected to the central office where the means for providing is separate from the at least one central office and maintains a communication link to the at least one central office such that the recorded announcement is provided from the means for storing the recorded announcements to the at least one central office while the call from the individual is connected to the central office such that the recorded announcement audibly conveys information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the central office during the call.

As another example, claim 14 recites, in part, system that includes a switch circuit coupled to the communications network and being connected to an individual who has placed a call and at least one recorded announcement file coupled to the switch circuit via a trunk network while the switch is connected to the individual who has placed the call,

the at least one recorded announcement file including information for the individual who places calls on the communications network.

The Kaufman reference fails to disclose such recitations. The Kaufman reference relies on an answering machine 18 to obtain the outgoing message to be played to callers in advance from the network including the server 26 in communication with the central office 14. The answering machine 18 does not have the ability to access messages from the server 36 once an incoming call has been received, but instead, the answering machine 18 plays back whatever message it has previously obtained and stored in memory 30.

Thus, in relation to claim 1 for example, the answering machine 18 fails to meet the recitations “with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal.” The answering machine 18 cannot receive a recorded announcement from a service node while the answering machine 18 has received a call. The answering machine 18 can only access the message it already has in its integrated memory 30.

In relation to claim 8 for example, the answering machine 18 fails to meet the recitations “where the means for providing is separate from the at least one central office and maintains a communication link to the at least one central office such that the recorded announcement is provided from the means for storing the recorded announcements to the at least one central office while the call from the individual is connected to the central office.” The answering machine 18 cannot be provided with a recorded announcement from a means that is separate and connected via a communications link while the answering machine 18 is connected to a call from an individual. The answering machine 18 can only access the message it already has in its integrated memory 30.

In relation to claim 14 for example, the answering machine 18 fails to meet the recitations “a switch circuit coupled to the communications network and being connected to an individual who has placed a call and at least one recorded announcement file coupled to the switch circuit via a trunk network while the switch is connected to the individual who has placed the call.” The answering machine cannot be coupled via a

trunk network to a recorded announcement file. Again, the answering machine 18 can only access the message it already has in its integrated memory 30.

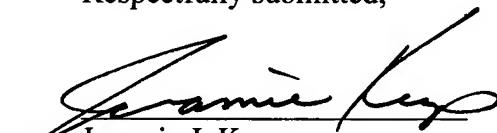
The remaining claims 21, 24, 25, and 33 are allowable over Kaufman for similar reasons. Additionally, the dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-23, and 26-32 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicants assert that claims 1-33 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due beyond the fee for continued examination and a one month extension of time. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,



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